

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 STR-04 COME-00 L-03

ITC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 FRB-01 OMB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /043 W

----- 016109

O R 061715Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5181

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 5673

PASS COPY ANN BERRY ARA/ECP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, HO

SUBJECT: 1977 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 290045 (B) TEGUCIGALPA 5667

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES ADDITIONAL UPDATE ON SUPPLY AVAILABILITY OF MEAT IN HONDURAS FOR EXPORT TO U.S. IN 1977. THIS DATA OBTAINED FROM AGATTACHE AND IS MORE COMPLETE THAN THAT REPORTED PARA 2 REF B FOR MEAT NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY.

2. HONDURAS CONTINUED TO EXPORT AT ACCELERATED RATES DURING THIRD QUARTER AND EXPORTED A TOTAL OF 32,294,880 LBS DURING THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS 1976 AS COMPARED TO 21,139,000 LBS IN FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1975. THROUGH OCTOBER 30, 1976, HONDURAS HAS EXPORTED 36,221,115 LBS (PRODUCT WEIGHT) TO U.S. EXPORTS TO U.S. SHOULD SLOW DOWN DURING NOVEMBER AND FIRST HALF OF DECEMBER, SINCE THE MEAT WILL HAVE TO BE PLACED ON BOND UNTIL JANUARY 1. (HONDURAS HAS FILLED ITS QUOTA). THIS EXTRA EXPENSE SHOULD DEFER MOST SHIPMENTS UNTIL MID DECEMBER. HOWEVER, BASED ON EXPORTS THROUGH OCTOBER 30 AND FACT THAT TWO PLANTS WILL SHIP OUTSIDE QUOTA WE HAVE REVISED OUR FORECAST OF EXPORTS IN 1976 FROM THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (HD-6015) TO 42 MILLION POUNDS. ONE FACTOR AND ONE FACTOR ALONE HAS CAUSED THIS INCREASE; PRICE. HERD POPULATION, CONDITION AND SIZE OF CARRYOVER STOCKS IN U.S. (IN BOND) MAKE IT VERY POSSIBLE FOR

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HONDURAS TO PROVIDE U.S. WITH 45 TO 50 MILLION POUNDS OF MEAT

IF PRICE IS RIGHT AND THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIVE QUOTAS. EVEN
WITH QUOTAS, THEY MAY EXPORT TO U.S. AS MUCH AS 40 MILLION
POUNDS. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE QUOTA AND THAT EXPORTED
WILL BE SHIPPED AS PROCESSED MEAT.
BECKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), MEATS, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEGUCI05673
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760450-0643
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761268/aaaachcq.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 290045, 76 TEGUCIGALPA 5667
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1977 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006